

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02657 151013Z

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SUBJECT: VANIK PRESS CONFERENCE, PRAGUE, OCTOBER 14

REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES A. VANIK (D-OHIO) TOLD CZECHOSLOVAK AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AT A PRAGUE PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 14, THAT HE FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF US-CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE REACHING THE QUARTER-BILLION (250,000,000) DOLLAR MARK IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WITH NO DIFFICULTY, IF REMAINING OBSTACLES TO IMPROVEMENTS IN TRADE RELATIONS COULD BE REMOVED.

VANIK SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAK ACTION WITHIN NEXT 5 - 6 MONTHS TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING CLAIMS AGAINST EACH OTHER, DATING FROM THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, AND OF HIS CONFIDENCE THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE RELATIONS, INCLUDING RESTORATION OF MFN STATUS, COULD QUICKLY FOLLOW SUCH A SETTLEMENT.

"THE UNITED STATES WAS, AT AN EARLIER TIME, THE THIRD LARGEST TRADING PARTNER OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA," SAID VANIK, AND HE PERSONALLY SAW NOTHING TO PREVENT THE RESTORATION OF THAT "MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TRADING RELATIONSHIP."

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02657 151013Z

ASKED IF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE U.S. TRADE ACT OF 1974 DID NOT MAKE SUCH IMPROVEMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS LESS LIKELY, VANIK REPLIED THAT HE CONSIDERED THE PASSAGE OF THE ACT LAST YEAR A "VICTORY AGAINST PROTECTIONISM, A VICTORY AGAINST ISOLATIONISM," AND THEREFORE, ON BALANCE, A GOOD THING FOR EAST-WEST TRADE.

REFERRING TO THE INFLUENCE OF SOME GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES WHO OPPOSE INCREASED FOREIGN TRADE INVOLVEMENT BY U.S. CORPORATIONS, VANIK EXPRESSED THIS STRONG SUPPORT OF THE EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE SUCH TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND HIS FIRM BELIEF THAT THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 REPRESENTED AN EFFECTIVE AND REALISTIC INSTRUMENT FOR THE COORDINATION OF THAT EFFORT.

VANIK MET WITH THE PRESS AT THE END OF A THREE-DAY VISIT TO PRAGUE, DURING WHICH HE CONFERRED WITH RANKING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN TRADE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK, THE PRAGUE VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVE VANIK WAS ARRANGED AS PART OF A TOUR OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BY THE U.S. CONGRESSMAN TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT EACH STOP CONCERNING THE CURRENT STATE OF, AND PROSPECTS FOR, BILATERAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT.

VANIK FLEW TO MOSCOW, OCTOBER 14, FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH USSR OFFICIALS.
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